

I support media diversity

Monopoly is a bad word. Sadly, it is currently very close to a bonafidereality in the U.S. media in which only 4-5 large corporations already own media that directly serves roughly 3/4 of the U.S. population. Further deregulation will only intensify this practice. Indeed, it will be the end of democracy as we know it.

In a world where our form of government is fast becoming known as "demonocracy", I find it appalling that attempts to rescue real democracy in the past year have been met with accusations of treason. What a tragic era. And YOU have the responsibility to reverse at least some of the tragedy before it's too late.

I urge you to tell FCC Chairman Michael Powell and the other Commissioners to stop their plans to end critical safeguards designed to help ensure diversity of media ownership. As I'm sure you are aware, under the FCC's proposed plans, one company in one community would be able to own the newspaper, several TV and radio stations, the cable system, and the principal Internet access company. There will be fewer owners of networks, stations, and newspapers nationwide as these conglomerates buy up small-time competitors who can't compete for advertising dollars.

I also urge you to also call on the FCC to ensure there are public hearings to discuss how such proposals will affect my community and the nation. To ignore this process is to decimate democracy.

And then there's the First Amendment ... please PLEASE do not allow deregulation to destroy free speech, which I'm sure you know at your gut level, is exactly what will happen.

Thank you,  
CS Symington